

Abrahamic Prayers  
For Peace and Healing Around the World and Right Where We Are  
April 2, 2020

Welcome to the Abrahamic-and-beyond interfaith worship for global healing. Our prayer for peace is to try to appreciate a political or religious perspective other than our own. Some of the below has been abridged or edited.

We will begin in worshipful silence.

Hymn: Living In The Imagination of God (*Cecilia Olusola Tribble*)

<https://www.umcdiscipleship.org/resources/history-of-hymns-living-in-the-imagination-of-god>

**Living In The Imagination of God**

C. Tribble



Come, where God gives us hope. We must stand and tell the good-ness of God's love.

Share in God's dream, show-ing grace to all peo-ple. We are

liv-ing in the i-ma-gi-na-tion of God.

Eyes have not seen nor ears have heard what God has pre-pared for you and me.

Jour-ney in-to wor-ship and then you'll see we are

liv-ing in the i-ma-gi-na-tion of God.

Opening prayer (*From Cursillo and Eileen James*)  
(*Spoken in unison*)

Breath of the Universe, beyond us yet within,  
Deepen and enrich our sense of Your Presence, especially in others.  
Fill the hearts of Your faithful and kindle in us the fire of Your love.  
Send forth Your Spirit to and through us and we shall be created,  
and You shall renew the face of the earth.

Thank You for bringing us together in this way at this time.  
What is of You in this evening's dialogue, nurture it and bring it to fruition;  
What is not of You, let it fade away quietly without a trace.  
Thank You for every sign of spiritual progress in human affairs.

Help us to expect, recognize, treasure and build on Your continual revelation  
to us and to others.  
So be it; or, in Hebrew, amen.

Madeleine L'Engle, from *And It Was Good*, 1983

[*Reader 1*] "If I affirm that the universe was created by a power of love, and that all creation is good, I am not proclaiming safety. Safety was never part of the promise. Creativity, yes; safety, no".

Martin Luther, in a letter to Rev. Dr. John Hess when a deadly plague hit Wittenberg, 1527

[*Reader 2*] "I shall ask God mercifully to protect us. Then I shall fumigate, help purify the air, administer medicine and take it. I shall avoid places and persons where my presence is not needed in order not to become contaminated and thus perchance inflict and pollute others and so cause their death as a result of my negligence. If God should wish to take me, he will surely find me and I have done what he has expected of me and so I am not responsible for either my own death or the death of others.

"If my neighbor needs me however, I shall not avoid place or person but will go freely as stated above. See this is such a God-fearing faith because it is neither brash nor foolhardy and does not tempt God."

Sung Prayer for Healing (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pHKo3CjuzpY> for the tune)

*Mi shebeirach avoteinu, m'kor hab'rachah l'imoteinu.  
May the source of strength who blessed the ones before us  
Help us find the courage to make our lives a blessing,  
And let us say Amen.*

Prayer for Peace in the Middle East and Other Areas of Unusual Suffering:

*(Spoken in unison)*

Surely there is special force in the shared prayer of intertwined faith communities.  
We rest in Your Presence, picturing a Holy Land,  
A Near East where political negotiations begin and end with interfaith prayer for peace,  
A Near East, a globe which thus becomes as peaceful and good-natured as the paradise in this gathering.

*One voice per entry*

*[Reader 3]* With prayers spoken and prayers unspoken, we hold this gathering in Your healing Light. Each present and future participant, right where they are at this hour.

*[Reader 4]* Clergy and other participants in every house of faith touching our gathering this evening. Political leaders making decisions locally, nationally, and around the world. The President of the United States. Those who support and those who oppose his policies. The Republican Party. The Democratic Party. The Christian left. The Christian right. Secular left and right. American Jews in their new sense of ancient vulnerability. The United States as a fragile political whole.

*[Reader 5]* All who are affected by the COVID-19 pandemic – medically, psychologically, relationally, economically. Healers of all kinds, and those in need of healing.

*Anyone who wishes (and as often as you choose)*

With thanksgiving, we hold \_\_\_\_\_ in the Circle of Your Presence, Breath of the Universe.

*Response in unison*

Lift \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_ true and highest self as an expression of Your own health and harmony and power.

Silent Prayer (waiting on or in the presence of the Divine)

Sung Prayer for Healing (closing verse)

*Mi shebeirach avoteinu, m'kor hab'rachah l'avoteinu.  
Bless those in need of healing with r'fuah sh'leimah [synonymous with next line],  
The renewal of body, the renewal of spirit,  
And let us say Amen.*

A prayer while entering into dialogue with people of other faiths  
(one person [Reader 6], then unison)

Abba, Allah, Adonai, Nameless Breath of the Seen and Unseen, where You are present in faiths other than my own, and in those who find and express You there, help me to want to find You, and to find You. Make me genuinely eager to discover the sublime parts of their tradition, and to experience those parts to their – or at least my own – height. Where there is error in my faith, or in someone else’s, help me to recognize it calmly and contribute to its quiet correction. Let me never hold so tightly to a gift from You that my fingerprints blur Your own. Alleluja. Amen. Alleluja.

*Words and Discussion led by Rev. Paul Allen - COVID-19 Challenges to Our Faith Communities*

Silent Prayer (waiting on or in the presence of the Lord)

Thomas Merton

[Reader 7] “You do not need to know precisely what is happening or exactly where it is all going. What you need is to recognize the possibilities and the challenges offered by the present moment and to embrace them with courage, faith, and hope.”

Qur’an. Surah 13:28-29

[Reader 8] Allah guides to Himself those who believe and whose hearts find rest remembering Him. Now surely in Allah’s remembrance to hearts find rest.

Joshua 1:9 (ESV)

[Reader 9] Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Henri-Frederic Amiel’s benediction

(Spoken in unison)

Life is short, and we do not have much time to gladden the hearts of those who travel with us. So, let us be quick to love, and make haste to be kind. And may the peace which undergirds, accompanies, passes understanding embrace us this evening and until the next time we join in prayer.

Shalom. Peace. Heal the world.